

§ 240.8

31 CFR Ch. II (7–1–02 Edition)

(2) That the bank has an opportunity to inspect and copy Treasury's records with respect to the reclamation;

(3) That the bank may, by filing a protest, request Treasury to review its decision that the bank is liable for the reclamation; and

(4) That the bank has an opportunity to enter into a written agreement with Treasury for the repayment of the amount of the reclamation. A request for a payment agreement must be accompanied by proof that satisfies the Treasury that the requesting bank is unable to repay the entire amount owed at the time that it is due.

(b) Requests for an appointment to inspect and copy Treasury's records with respect to a reclamation and requests to enter into repayment agreements should be sent in writing to: Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Processing Division, Reclamation Branch, Room 700–D, P.O. Box 1849, Hyattsville, MD 20788.

(c)(1) If a presenting bank wishes to contest its liability for the principal amount demanded, it shall send a protest, i.e., a written statement and copies of all documentary evidence (e.g., affidavits, account agreements, signature cards) and other written information raising a question of law or fact which, if resolved in the presenting bank's favor, would show that the presenting bank is not liable, to: Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, Financial Processing Division, Reclamation Branch, Room 700–D, P.O. Box 1849, Hyattsville, MD 20788. The Director, Financial Processing Division, who has supervisory authority over the Reclamation Branch, or his/her authorized subordinate, shall consider and decide any protest properly submitted under this paragraph. Neither the Director, Financial Processing Division, nor any of his/her subordinates, shall have any involvement in the process of making findings or demands under § 240.6(a). In order to be considered, and to be timely, a protest must be received not later than 90 days after the reclamation date. Treasury will refrain from collection in accordance with § 240.8 or § 240.9 while a timely protest is being considered. Unresolved protested items will

be appropriately annotated on the monthly summary of debt statement.

(2) If Treasury accepts the protest, the presenting bank shall be notified in writing that efforts to collect the item and any accrued interest have been abandoned.

(3) If the evidence sent by the presenting bank does not satisfy Treasury that refund of the amount demanded is not required under § 240.6(a), Treasury will notify the presenting bank in writing of its decision that the bank is liable for the amount demanded and the reasons for its decision. If the presenting bank fails to send the amount demanded within 30 days of the date of Treasury's decision, Treasury shall proceed to collect the amount owed in accordance with § 240.8, provided that no offset shall be taken sooner than 120 days after the reclamation date.

(4) If an item, and/or accrued interest relating to that item remains unpaid for 90 days after the reclamation date and if there is no unresolved protest associated with the item, the monthly interest billing statement will be annotated with a notice that the presenting bank has until the next billing date to make payment on the item or be subject to offset thereon.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989, as amended at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

§ 240.8 Offset.

(a) If an item, and/or accrued interest relating to that item, remains unpaid for 120 days after the reclamation date and the presenting bank has been sent at least one monthly interest billing statement informing it that Treasury intends to collect that item by offset, Treasury may refer the matter to any Federal agency and request that agency to offset the indebtedness and other applicable charges against amounts otherwise owed by the Federal agency to the presenting bank. Monthly interest billing statements will be annotated to identify those specific items that are to be referred to an agency for offset.

(b) If a bank wishes to make payment on an item referred to an agency for offset, it should contact Treasury at the address listed in § 240.7(b) to reduce the possibility of a double collection. If an agency to which an indebtedness is

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referred in accordance with this paragraph is unable to effect offset in whole or in part, Treasury may then refer the debt to any other agency and request offset in accordance with this paragraph. Treasury designates each agency acting under this paragraph as its designee for the sole purpose of effecting offset. No such designee shall be liable to any party for any loss resulting from its action under this paragraph.

(c) If Treasury is unable to collect an amount owed by use of the offset described in paragraph (a) of this section, Treasury shall take such action against the presenting bank as may be necessary to protect the interests of the United States, including Treasury Check Offset in accordance with § 240.9 or referral to the Department of Justice.

(d) If Treasury effects offset under this section and it is later determined that the presenting bank paid the amount of the reclamation and accrued interest thereon, or that a presenting bank which had timely filed a protest was not liable for the amount of the reclamation, Treasury shall promptly refund to the presenting bank the amount of its payment.

[54 FR 35642, Aug. 29, 1989, as amended at 67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

§ 240.9 Treasury Check Offset.

(a) If Treasury is unable to effect collection pursuant to § 240.7 or § 240.8 of this part, it will collect the principal amount of the reclamation, accrued interest, penalty, and administrative costs through Treasury Check Offset. Treasury Check Offset occurs when, at the direction of Treasury, a Federal Reserve Bank withholds, that is, offsets, credit from a presenting bank (e.g., a financial institution presenting a Treasury check for ultimate charge to the account of the United States Treasury). The amount of credit offset is applied to the principal amount of the reclamation, accrued interest, penalties, and administrative costs owed by the presenting bank. As provided by the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3712(e), by presenting Treasury checks for payment, the presenting bank is deemed to authorize Treasury Check Offset.

(b) If Treasury effects offset under this section and it is later determined that the presenting bank paid the principal amount of the reclamation and accrued interest, penalties, and administrative costs thereon, or that a presenting bank was not liable for the amount of the reclamation, Treasury will promptly refund to the presenting bank the amount of its payment. Treasury may refund the amount either by applying the amount to another reclamation debt in accordance with this Part or other applicable law, or by returning the amount to the presenting bank.

(c) Treasury Check Offset is used for the purpose of collecting debt owed by a presenting bank to the Federal Government. As a consequence, presenting banks shall not be able to use the fact that Treasury checks presented for payment have not been paid as the basis for a claim against Treasury, a Federal Reserve Bank, or other persons or entities, including payees or other indorsers of checks, for the amount of the credit offset pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3712(e) and this section.

(d) This section does not apply to a claim based upon a reclamation that has been outstanding for more than 10 years from the date of delinquency.

[67 FR 36518, May 24, 2002]

§ 240.10 Processing of checks.

(a) *Federal Reserve Banks.* (1) Federal Reserve Banks shall cash checks for Government disbursing officers when such checks are drawn by the disbursing officers to their own order. Payment of such checks shall not be refused except for alteration or counterfeiting of the check, or forged signature of the drawer.

(2) Federal Reserve Banks shall not be expected to cash Government checks presented directly to them by the general public.

(3) As a depository of public funds, each Federal Reserve Bank shall:

(i) Receive checks from its member banks, nonmember clearing banks, or other depositors, when indorsed by such banks or depositors who guarantee all prior indorsements thereon;

(ii) Give immediate credit therefore in accordance with their current Time Schedules and charge the amount of